

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 05291 020539Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
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R 011135Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3781
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AF, PK, IR
SUBJECT: CURRENT AFGHAN VIEWS ON FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS

1. SUMMARY. "THE KABUL TIMES" OF JULY 28 CARRIED AN INTERVIEW BY AFP CORRESPONDENT JEAN FRANCOIS PIERRE MARIL LE MOUNIER WITH AFGHANISTAN'S MINISTER IN CHARGE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAHEET ABDULLAH, IN WHICH THE LATTER ESSENTIALLY CONFIRMED PREVIOUS AFGHAN POSITIONS AND TOUCHED ON SEVERAL MAJOR ISSUES CONCERNING AFGHANISTAN'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES, INCLUDING RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND IRAN. END SUMMARY.

2. REGARDING PAKISTAN, ABDULLAH REPEATED PRESIDENT DAOUD'S ASSESSMENT, CONTAINED IN HIS JULY 16 JUESHYN SPEECH, THAT DEVELOPMENTS THERE ARE AN "INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THAT COUNTRY." IN ADDITION, ABDULLAH REITERATED THAT BOTH
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PAGE 02 KABUL 05291 020539Z

SIDES HAVE AGREED TO MAINTAIN AND RESPECT THE "SPIRIT OF KABUL," BUT HE STATED CLEARLY THAT ANY FURTHER BILATERAL TALKS -- WHICH HE INSISTS AFGHANISTAN IS PERFECTLY WILLING TO UNDERTAKE -- MUST AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS. ABDULLAH DUCKED A QUESTION REGARDING THE MECHANICS OF ANY RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSIONS, AS WELL AS ONE CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE TRIAL OF WALI KHAN. ABDULLAH DID, HOWEVER, STATE THAT THE ISSUE WHICH

CAUSED THE MINI-BROUHAHA DURING EX-PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S LAST VISIT TO KABUL -- PUBLICATION IN THE PAKISTANI PRESS OF REPORTS THAT AFGHAN TROOPS WERE BEING DEPLOYED TOWARD THE AFGHAN-PAKISTANI BORDER -- HAD BEEN LAID TO REST BY BOTH PARTIES.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A LEADING QUESTION ABOUT THE REPORTED IRANIAN EXPULSION OF AFGHAN WORKERS, ABDULLAH DENIED THAT IRAN WAS DOING ANY SUCH THING, AND ASSERTED THAT MOVEMENT OF AFGHAN WORKERS IN AND OUT OF IRAN WAS MERELY A NORMAL MIGRATORY EVENT. ABDULLAH ADDED THAT AFGHANISTAN IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING "REGULATIONS" WHICH WOULD GOVERN THE MOVEMENT OF AFGHAN WORKERS, BUT HE DODGED A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THESE REGULATIONS WILL BE NEGOTIATED ON A BILATERAL BASIS.

4. ON THE INTERNAL SCENE, ABDULLAH CLAIMED THAT THE CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION PARTY -- PROCLAIMED BY DAOUD IN HIS JULY 16 SPEECH -- "WILL BE PUBLISHED" (NO DATE GIVEN), AND POINTED OUT THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE OR MORE VICE-PRESIDENTS, A MATTER "FOR THE FUTURE," WILL BE DECIDED BY THE PRESIDENT. AS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF EXTREMIST ELEMENTS (BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT) IN AFGHANISTAN, ABDULLAH SAID THAT SUCH "SELF-INTERESTED POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL TENDENCIES EXIST" IN AFGHANISTAN, AS THEY DO "IN MOST COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD." HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY DISRUPTIVE OR PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS ON THE PART OF SUCH ELEMENTS.

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PAGE 03 KABUL 05291 020539Z

5. REGARDING THE FOREIGN TRAVELS OF PRESIDENT DAOUD, OR LACK THEREOF, ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE AFGHAN LEADERS HAS NOT FULFILLED SEVERAL INVITATIONS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS BECAUSE OF HIS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PREOCCUPATION WITH THE WRITING OF A NEW CONSTITUTION AND RELATED DUTIES. FURTHERMORE, HE ADDED, IT WAS NOT LIKELY THAT DAOUD WOULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF HIS BUSY SCHEDULE.

6. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH ABDULLAH BREAKS LITTLE NEW GROUND IN THIS PARTICULAR INTERVIEW, THE KIND WORDS -- BY IMPLICATION AT LEAST -- AIMED AT IRAN SEEM DESIGNED TO SOOTHE THE REPORTED BILATERAL IRRITATION CAUSED BY THE PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF AFGHAN WORKERS IN IRAN. MOREOVER, HIS REMARKS ON PAKISTAN SUSTAIN THE AFGHAN POSTURE OF "RESPONSIBLE STATESMANSHIP" WHICH KABUL HAS ASSUMED SINCE THE JULY 5 MILITARY TAKEOVER. ABDULLAH'S REMARKS RE DAOUD'S NON-TRAVELS PUBLICLY CONFIRMS REPORTS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED THAT THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT WISH TO UNDERTAKE ANY FOREIGN VISITS UNTIL AT LEAST AFTER THE PAKISTANI ELECTIONS. END COMMENT.
ELIOT

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